Tells the Facts and Names the Names

\$2.50

CounterPunch

November 16-30, 2002 — *Alexander Cockburn and Jeffrey St. Clair* — VOL. 9, NO. 20

Our Little Secrets

Define Terrorism; Win $1000

By Frank Bardacke

Several months ago, Jeff Lustig, Doug Lummis, and I bet $1,000 that no reader of the New York Review of Books could define "terrorism"in a way that would exclude U.S. military strategy and tactics. Twenty-one people have answered our challenge so far. After studying the proposed definitions, we are happy to announce that our money is safe. We are now even more confident that any accurate definition of terrorism would cover some U.S. military activity, and have decided to open our contest to the readers of CounterPunch and the rest of the world.

The idea for the bet started with Lummis. He lives with his family on Okinawa Island, amidst 30 U.S. military bases and 25,000 U.S. troops. Hoping to keep in touch with U.S. intellectual life, he subscribes to the New York Review of Books and other American magazines and journals. After September 11, he complained to Lustig and me that the U.S. seemed obsessed with terrorism but unable to think about it clearly. He was angry. The war on terrorism threatened to destroy the lives of tens of thousands of people all over the world, and yet the word "terrorism" remained undefined. Why weren't Lustig and I (and others) doing something about that? Raising the issue in the American press? Finding some way to discuss this matter that might be hard to ignore?

We tried to get off the hook by

(**OLS** *continued on page 2*)

"A Distinctly American Internationalism"

Dare Call It Empire

"Who can doubt that the United States is an imperial power." Thus James Chace in the latest edition of the New York Review of Books. "Empire is back", comes a Boston echo from Professor Alan Wolfe. Suddenly the word Empire is everywhere, scattered through the opinion columns like rose petals before a conquering hero. We can recall Chace, an erstwhile managing editor of Foreign Affairs, years ago praising the civilizing mission of the US-trained Atlacatl battalion in El Salvador, but into these delicate moral insights he never permitted the blatant term "Empire" to intrude.

When in doubt, ask those on the receiving end. Of course the US has been an imperial power for many, many decades, but when Teddy Roosevelt used to blare out the summons to imperial duty like a Roman matron admonishing youth, there was some embarrassment at his crude speech. Then, and earlier, amid calls to arms and empire, US Congressmen bridled at the thought of ladling out too much gravy to the Army and Navy.

Woodrow Wilson substituted more demure Presbyterian pieties about burdens and duties. Then another Democrat, FDR, founded an even more appealing rhetoric with which to cloak imperial expansion: fighting other empires, a mission which conveniently brought an ever-burgeoning but unacknowledged empire in its wake, some of the most valuable oil-yielding portions ruthlessly excised from the British imperial cadaver after World War II.

In the late 1930s the editors of Henry Luce's business flagship, Fortune, sidled into the issue of imperial conquest without breaching decorum by using the explosive E word: "It is generally supposed," Fortune's editors wrote, "that the American military ideal is peace. But unfortunately for this high-school classic, the US Army, since 1776, has filched more square miles of the earth by sheer military conquest than any army in the world, except only that of Great Britain. And as between Great Britain and the U.S. it has been a close race, Britain having conquered something over 3,500,000 square miles since that date, and the U.S. (if one includes wresting the Louisiana Purchase from the Indians) something over 3,100,000."

We came across this passage quoted by C. Wright Mills in The Power Elite, but even that fierce Texan radical, writing in the mid-1950s, didn't use the E-word, at least so far as we could detect. It wasn't until the 1960s that the most daredevil Marxists, clutching their copies of Hilferding's and Lenin's discourses on imperialism, accused the US of being an Empire.

In the academies it was a forbidden word. Officially, the only empires on display were those in the museum (the old colonial powers) or headquartered in the Kremlin.

But then, all of a sudden, after 1989 there was no more Soviet Union. The Evil Empire is dead! Long live the Empire! Today all the folks in Congress are safely bought, forever silenced about costs of the military industrial complex. As our friend Frank Bardacke put it recently, "it's a Naked Empire now. Naked in the sense that those who decide on American policy and those whose job it is to sell that policy to the American

(**Empire** *continued on page 6)*

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Our Little Secrets

suggesting that Doug stop reading so many U.S. journals. Instead, he suggested the contest: Lustig and I signed on.

Starting with the October 10 issue, and for the next four issues, we put the following ad in the New York Review of Books. (We used as few words as possible, as we had to pay by the word.) "Contest: $1,000 prize to the first person who offers a definition of "terrorism" that both a) captures its character as a mode of combat, and b) excludes all official U.S. military strategy and tactics. Respond to the NYR Box 16050. Society for the Promotion of Accuracy in Political Speech. Frank Bardacke, Douglas Lummis, Jeffrey Lustig, founders."

We now invite everyone to take us up on the bet. Proposed definitions can be sent to CounterPunch, PO Box 228, Petrolia, CA 95558 (not to the NYRB). They must be received by December 31, 2002. We propose to read them, write an essay discussing them, submit it to the New York Review of Books, and see what happens.

Editors
Alexander Cockburn
Jeffrey St. Clair

Business
Becky Grant (Manager)
Anna Amezcua

Design
Deborah Thomas

Counselor
Ben Sonnenberg

Published twice monthly except August, 22 issues a year:
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$100 institutions/supporters
$30 student/low-income
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PO Box 228
Petrolia, CA 95558
1-800-840-3683 (phone)
counterpunch@counterpunch.org
www.counterpunch.org

Turner Broke?

Ted Turner is out of money. Well, at least his foundation is. A few years ago, Turner claimed that he was devoting his life and a big chunk of his wealth to funding hardcore environmental activism. But in mid-November the grantees of his Turner Foundation received an email announcing that the Foundation had fallen on hard times and that as a consequence it would not be handing out any grants for at least the next two years. The staff of the Foundation got a similar curt note along with a pink slip.

The memo pins the blame on "the current state of the stock market and the resulting decline in the Foundation's asset base".

Where'd all the money go? Last time we checked Ted still had billions. The Turner Foundation didn't operate like many other philanthropic outfits, which putter along on the endowments of dead oil barons. Every quarter Turner would simply refill the accounts with an infusion of cash.

Ted's no financial genius, but it's hard to lose all that money in a single lifetime. The more likely scenario is that Ted's simply lost interest in the environment as a cause and not something to own. He continues to gobble up land across the West. He now owns nearly 2 million acres, making him the second largest private landowner in the country. When you own that much land in the West environmental groups, even ones that you've doled out money to, begin to ask questions about what you're up to. In Turner's case, he was experimenting on wolves, locking out the public from lands in New Mexico that were formerly open to hiking, and charging enormous fees to hunt elk and fish for trout on his estates.

People who know the Foundation from the inside tell us that the end could be foreseen the moment Ted divorced Jane Fonda. "Jane's the one who was committed to funding militant environmental groups," a former Turner staffer tells us. "Ted is obsessed with population. He would rather distribute Norplant implants across the third world—and urban areas in US cities—than underwrite some group that's going to blockade a road to stop a clearcut." When Fonda was playing an active role in the Foundation, it was one of the few charities willing to give money to groups that engaged in direct action.

There's no reason to feel sorry for Ted, though. He seems to be doing just fine. CounterPunch talked to the members of a Montana rock band who'd been hired to play a party last month at Turner's ranch in Montana's Madison River Valley. "It was a huge soiree with trout and buffalo meat fresh off the ranch," one of the band members told us. "During one of the breaks, we noticed an extremely dignified and sharply dressed black man talking with Turner. This is not an every day sight in rural Montana. It was Kofi Annan." Remember, Turner has given the UN billions.

Utopia, A Bit Too Late

"Others, such as whistle blower and 26-year veteran of Russia's chemical weapons program Vil Mirzayanov, suspect a military gas may have also been used. 'In the 1980s we developed an analogue to the well known psychotropic drug BZ, which we called Substance 78," he told Newsweek. 'It is a hallucinogenic drug,' says Mirzayanov, 'which causes people to have happy dreams, to sleep and not to care about wars and weapons."

The Osama of Bhopal
By Romi Mahajan

The ex-CEO of Union Carbide, Warren Anderson, has lived well the last 18 years. The surviving victims of his crimes have not. And the death toll of his crimes continues to mount.

Anderson has been absconding from justice since the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster. Now, pressure for Anderson's extradition to India is increasing. The extradition campaign is being led by several organizations representing the survivors and seeking redress for the dead and the dying.

Amid litigation brought by these organizations, Union Carbide was forced to hand over documents that indicate unequivocally that Anderson knew that the Bhopal factory's Methyl Isocyanate (MIC)unit had not tested safe and, further, that Anderson had ordered severe cost-cutting measures in the hazardous

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parts of the plant.

In short, the gas leak was a predictable outcome of his actions. Anderson must be extradited and be forced to live the rest of his life in an Indian jail. Why? Two reasons: Justice and Deterrence.

Before getting into either argument, let's look at the facts in more detail:

On the night of Dec 2-3, 1984, tons of the deadly gas MIC spewed from a Union Carbide pesticide factory in Bhopal. The cloud of gas engulfed entire wards of the city; thousands of people died horrible deaths,drowning in their own bodily fluids, lungs and eyes aflame. Tens of thousands were maimed that night itself. As time passed, ailments developed and the drinking water in the gas-affected wards became toxic, thus producing a continuous and constant set of wracking health risks.

Over the past 18 years, the number of people whose lives and bodies have been shattered exceeds 200,000. As of today, 30 people die monthly as a result of gas-related ailments and over 120,000 people are in need of urgent medical care. Of these, 80,000 are too sick to perform manual labor, thereby rendering them unable to support their families.

The conditions that precipitated the accident were the results of inhumane cost-cutting efforts by Union Carbide.The proximate cause of that night's gas leak was the turning off of the refrigeration unit in order to save $40 a day. That the plant was of flawed design and a major safety hazard was known to Union Carbide. Previous accidents and a company-performed safety audit disclose a total of 61 hazards including 11 in the phosgene/MIC unit. The plant was a powder keg. Nothing was done about it.

After the accident, Union Carbide acted immediately to mitigate its financial exposure and in keeping with this to take repellent measures, including the withholding of key medical information on the leaked gas, also the dispensing of unsound medical advice in order to support the cimpany's ridiculous claim that MIC was nothing more than a potent tear gas.

After denying financial responsibility for years, Union Carbide finally settled out of court with the Government of India and agreed to pay $470 Million. On the day the paltry settlement was announced, the stock price of Union Carbide shot up $2. Families of the dead received $1,250 and each injured victim got between $400 and $500.

Argument 1: For justice to not be miscarried further, Anderson must be extradited, prosecuted, and jailed in India. This point flows directly from the fact that a grievous crime, in fact a super-crime, was committed. The unfortunate part is that in elite circles, one finds almost universal agreement that those who commit small crimes should be brought to justice; super-crimes are requited in the form of golden handshakes, country-club memberships, and fawning articles in the Wall Street Journal.

In more sane circles, however, it is acknowledged that boardroom decisions that result directly in death are criminal acts and that the criminal actors should be punished. If justice means anything, Anderson should be jailed in India.(Cruel and unusual punishment would be to force him to drink a glass of the contaminated water that thousands of Bhopalos bathe in and drink everyday-water contaminated by Union Carbide's plant.)

The cloud of gas engulfed entire wards of the city; thousands of people died horrible deaths,drowning in their own bodily fluids, lungs and eyes aflame. Tens of thousands were maimed that night itself.

Argument 2: To deter other business leaders from committing such crimes, Anderson must be extradited, prosecuted, and jailed in India. Corporate leaders live in the warm cocoon of indemnity. For their actions there is all too often no reaction. They make profit-based decisions that affect the health and well being of thousands of people without consideration of the effects on these people, and with no fear of retribution.

Would Warren Anderson have issued edicts for paltry cost savings if he thought that he personally would be held liable for the predictable outcome of his actions? One step to help ensure that corporate leaders are far more circumspect is to make them live aware of their personal exposure when they make decisions that deleteriously affect peoples' health or well being. Life in an Indian jail would certainly be one lived in extremis. Warren Anderson committed a deadly crime. For 18 years he's avoided justice. For 18 years Bhopalis have been sick, wracked with pain, dying.

It's time for Anderson to pay the price for his crimes.

MARTHA'S HIDEOUT

Speaking of the rich in Montana, two mountain ranges to the east from Turner's sprawling ranch is Big Sky, a lavish resort town along the Gallatin River, just north of Yellowstone National Park. A few weeks ago friends of CounterPunch were delivering flowers arrangements from a shop in Bozeman to Club Yellowstone, a private ski resort where the initiation fee is $250,000 and members are expected to have at least $3 million in "liquid assets".

Our flower delivery crew deposited the floral arrangement in one of the Club's condos (minimum price $1 million), where none other than the nation's apex flower-arranger herself, Martha Stewart, had taken refuge from hostile reporters and the inquisitors of Capitol Hill.

Club Yellowstone bills itself as the nation's most exclusive ski resort. It's the brainchild of timber baron, Timothy Blixseth, a man who, like Martha, has had his own history of unsavory but profitable financial dealings.

Blixseth acquired the 13,000 acres of land for Club Yellowstone through his Big Sky Timber Company for about $200 an acre. Now he's selling off about 800 2-acre lots for $2 million each. The Club is surrounded by national forest and sits in prime grizzly bear habitat. "What we're selling is privacy and exclusivity", Blixseth declared.

Blixseth was originally based in Oregon, but his timber company defaulted on 10 timber sale contracts with the Umpqua National Forest, bilking the federal government out of $7 million. The

(**OLS** *continued on page 6)*

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A Mighty Echo of Seattle

Quito's Days of Rage and Hope

By Daniel Burton Rose

Quito Ecuador. The continental Days of Resistance against the Free Trade Area of the Americas opened with drawers dropping. On the morning of Tuesday October 29, in front of the Swiss Hotel, seven pairs of bared bums mooned in opposition: "ALCA NICAGANDO" ("No FTAA--Not Even F-ing Around"). Ongoing inside was the 7th Summit of the Business Forum of the Americas, which preceded the 7th Summit of the Ministers of Trade for the FTAA with a parallel agenda.

Conceived in Miami in 1994 the FTAA plans to harmonize the laws of each country in the hemisphere, except (of course) Cuba, with the protocols and prohibitions of the Elders of the WTO. This includes über-national courts, a redefinition of expropriation as an act which prohibits potential profit-making, and the challenging of laws protecting labor, the environment, indigenous sovereignty and human rights. The U.S. is creating a three pronged assault: diplomatic, infrastructural and military. These include: the Central America Free Trade Agreement, an extension of NAFTA to Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador, which U.S. negotiators hope to enact by mid-2003; Plan Puebla Panama, to provide communications, dams and highways for capitalist integration in Central America; and Plan Colombia, to re-militarize Latin America in the name of "drug eradication" and now, overtly, "counter-terrorism".

Quito is a city of prolific and poetic graffiti. The most prominent are now public displays challenging the FTAA. The FTAA's Spanish acronym, ALCA, lends itself to much creative use: "ALC Arajo" ("ALCA go to hell"); "NO ALCApitalismo"; "ALCAquita" ("little shit").

In the Continental Meeting of Parliamentarians on the FTAA, which took place October 28 and 29, Argentinian Nobel Laureate Adolfo Pérez Esquivel denounced the propose d agreement in these terms: "the accord is going to destroy the productive capacity of our peoples, of the national industries and is going to generate dependency; it's a new form of colonization." Thirty-six deputies from 14 countries attended the encuentro, organized by Acción Ecológica.

At the simultaneous Continental Gathering of Campesinos Against the FTAA, the most prominent voices were indigenous. Leonidas Iza, president of the Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas del Ecuador (CONAIE), stated dramatically that the "FTAA would signify the death of the agricultural sector". Abadio Gree of the National Organization of the Indigenous of Colombia said that the FTAA was a struggle for the resources of Pacha Mama ("Mother Earth"), and that fighting it was "a war for life."

In Ecuador over the past decade indigenous people have been the primary mobilizers. They came onto the political scene as a social force with an uprising in June of 1990, backed by CONAIE. The accumulation of hundreds of disparate land disputes erupted in a cascade of protesters blocking the Pan American highway and demanding the acknowledgment of their cultural identity. Other uprisings followed in '92 and '94, which forged alliances with mestizo campesinos and pressed deeper into the country's political process. In 1996 CONAIE founded Movimiento Unidad Plurinacional Pachakutik to insert an indigenous voice into local and national elections. In February of '97 the indigenous movement spearheaded the ousting of kleptocratic President Abdala Bucaram.

A gray paper maché plane labeled "Plan Colombia" and "DynCorp" weaved through protesters and doused an open fire in the crowd as if it was fumigating coca.

The dramatic cresting of this activity came as a response to the overwhelming corruption of President Jamil Mahuad. Over $2 billion were siphoned out, largely from small investors and pension funds, by Mahuad and his cronies. In January of 2000 the president provoked a banking crisis which more than halved working people's income, then offered dollarization as a solution. CONAIE marched on Quito and, at the gates of Congress, their several thousand members joined up with a group of disaffected army colonels, among them a Lucio Gutiérrez, who had been sent there to stop them.

Together the group marched into Congress, took over the Supreme Court and opened the Presidential Palace. A group calling itself the Junta of National Salvation, composed of then-CONAIE president Antonio Vargas, Col. Gutiérrez, and an obscure former Supreme Court Justice named Carlos Solórzano, took control. They ruled for the next few hours until a Colonel Jorge Brito, also involved in the ruling triumvirate, unilaterally ceded control to Muhuad's VP, Gustavo Noboa, in response to US threats of complete isolation.

The indigenous movement flexed its muscle again when Colonel Gutiérrez decided to run for President. The primary in October of this year placed the Colonel first. A district breakdown of the distribution of votes shows that the indigenous movement provided him with up to half of his support.

Gutiérrez is a troubling champion for the indigenous movement. He is said to have served in a commando force set up by the León Febres Cordero government (1984-88), which, with the help of Israeli mercenaries, eliminated the small urban guerrilla group Alfaro Vive Carajo ("Alfaro Lives Dammit" - a reference to a Liberal reformer and President of the country at the turn of the century). He served as aide-de-camp to Presidents Bucaram and Mahuad. Though he says the malfeasance he witnessed in those administrations is the source of his passion against corruption, one of his first actions as a presidential contender was to nominate both his wife and his brother as congressional deputy candidates.

Col. Gutiérrez spent the week of the anti-ALCA protests in the United States.

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There he chummed up to Ecuadorian expat capital in Miami and met with IMF representatives in Washington D.C. Though he initially modeled himself after Venezuela's Chávez, he assured all in the U.S. "I am not Chávez". He threw a bone to protesters Friday November 1: in an interview he said that for Ecuador to join ALCA would be "economic suicide".

The FTAA Summit took place in the Marriott in the part of the new city locals call "gringolandia". Over 5,000 police, another 600 military personnel and a special group of Intelligence and Rescue and Special Operatives, as well as a number of snipers, covered the 4-plus blocks of the huge Marriott complex which were closed to protesters.

CONAIE and CONFEUNASSC-CNC (an organization designed to protect Ecuador's unique campesino social security system) organized marches to draw people in from the country to Quito for the contra ALCA mobilization. The marches collected down from the Colombian border in the North, up from the Peruvian one in the South; from Esmeraldas, Puertoviejo and Guayaquil in the West, and El Oriente, the Amazonian provinces, in the East. The trucks and buses began trickling in the night of Tuesday the 29th, their passengers gathering at the downtown Parque El Arbolito for Thursday's march.

On Thursday protesters began gathering at the park around 9am. Divergent marches 11,000 people strong connected around a circular police cordon. A "Ring of Diversity" formed to release "The Cry of the Excluded." One chant went "We Don't Want To Be A North American Colony, We Want To Be A Latin American Potency"; another, nonsensically, "Bear, Bear, Bear, The FTAA Is Rotting" (it rhymes in Spanish!). Indigenous men marched with spears, and incense doused the crowd. Over a hundred campesino and indigenous groups were present, as well as gay and women's organizations. If the Zapatista caravan in 2001 was "the march of the color of the earth", this was a protest of the colors of the rainbow. Vibrant colors and vibrant spirits. Protest puppets have penetrated South America. Intimidating Uncle Sams loomed, while a gray paper maché plane labeled "Plan Colombia" and "DynCorp" weaved through protesters and doused an open fire in the crowd as if it was fumigating coca. Representing the minor whitey bloc, our friend Tristan spray-painted "Gringos contra ALCA" on an American flag and set it ablaze.

One major gassing occurred, hospitalizing several children and at least one adult, as well as the discomforting the police, who didn't have masks! This contained violence was somewhat of a relief, considering that the night before police discharged live ammo into the air in the face of persistent rock throwers.

Representatives of indigenous and campesino organizations successfully negotiated a meeting with the Ministers. After several days of give and take, one condition remained. Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Heinz Moeller forbade Bolivarian indigenous leader Evo Morales from participating in the group: he feared Morales' presence would push US Trade Rep. Robert Zoellick over the edge. The meeting took place at the Swiss Hotel. An estimated 65 organizers presented the Ministers with a letter three meters wide and 100 long, a letter which collected the thoughts those in the communities the caravans passed through wished to convey to the Trade Representatives.

William Trujillo of CONFEUNASSC-CNC, who participated in the presentation, described what took place to CounterPunch. "We broke into their lair and were able to shout at them all what we were feeling. The voices that came with us on the march were turned over to them to hear." After presenting the letter to the Ministers the protesters took it back: "We didn't want to leave our story with them." Protesters counted coup again on the next day when, despite the heavy security precautions, a number of them snuck in through the service entrance and hung an anti-ALCA banner from the Marriott.

In the face of opposition not only from protesters but from the press and many Latin American Trade Representatives the U.S. delegation made one concession: they agreed to permit the discussion of U.S. subsidies to agro-business in the agricultural working group. (The topic of agriculture proved so contentious that it was separated from the eleven other working groups.) The next Summit of Ministers is slated for October of 2003 in Miami, about the same time as a WTO ministerial in Cancún. The U.S. is pushing for the enactment of the FTAA on January 1, 2005.

Friday, November 1: with an order prohibiting protests and CONAIE and CONFUNASSC/CNC completing their position paper against ALCA, the presence on the street was light. I marched with a hundred anarkids from Parque El Carolina in a half moon around the Marriott cordon onto the Salesian Polytechnic University, where the conference was wrapping up.

There Trujillo elaborated for CounterPunch the future direction of events. The general sentiment among the contra ALCA parliamentarians had been to strengthen regional alliances within Latin America, those of the common market of the south, Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay), and the Andean Community (Bolivia, Colombia Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela), and among Central American countries and the Caribbean.

The next step, from the perspective of Trujillo's organization, is a continental wide consulta which will ask people what form of integration they would like to see: what would be complementary, instead of dominating. "If things go as planned, the various elements of the consulta will allow us to achieve a continent an uprising in 2002. A mobilization of everyone who does not want to see this integration of capital take place from the United States to Argentina and Chile." CP

Daniel Burton-Rose lives in Oakland. He is the author of The Celling of America: An Inside Look at the U.S. Prison Industry

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(**Empire** *continued from page 1*)

people and the world no longer feel a need to camouflage their intentions, to dress up their empire in more respectable clothes. American Empire and imperial ambition are currently respectable enough. They need no ideological cover. And that may turn out to be the longest lasting legacy of September 11."

The Europeans don't like the new, raw language. And here the Democrats quaver that sensitivities about "our allies" must be displayed, though within distinct limits. In Foreign Affairs for Sep/Oct 2002 Michael Hirsh, seeking this balance between deference to NATO and exaltation at America's unchallenged might, rolls out these complacent phrases: "US allies must accept that some US unilateralism is inevitable, even desirable. This mainly involves accepting the reality of America's supreme might – and, truthfully, appreciating how historically lucky they are to be protected by such a relatively benign power."

The National Security Strategy delivered by President Bush to Congress on September 21 had a briefer formulation: "a distinctively American internationalism." The stage is set for preemptive interventions, far more blatant than the old CIA-organized coups of earlier decades.

The basic aims of American international strategy have changed barely at all since the end of the Second World War. The difference is in the degree of frankness with which the brute realities of world domination are discussed. CP

(**OLS** *continued from page 3*)

feds took the rare step of barring Blixseth and any of his companies from even bidding on federal timber in Washington and Oregon.

So he moved to Montana, where the politicians are more pliable and the land is up for grabs. In the past decade, Blixseth has amassed much of his wealth through land swaps with the federal government, marshaled through congress by

"Ted is obsessed with population. He would rather distribute Norplant implants across the third world—and urban areas in US cities—than underwrite some group that's going to blockade a road to stop a clearcut."

his pal Max Baucus, Montana's blow-dried senator. After his company clearcut its land, Blixseth would trade those logged-over acres to the Forest Service in exchange for unlogged national forest lands and cold cash. These swaps weren't exchanges so much as multi-million dollar handouts.

Here's how High Country News described one of Blixseth's deals with the feds: "Big Sky Lumber would be making something like $75 million on its reported investment of $26 million. When the dust settled, Big Sky Lumber would still hold 75 square miles in solid blocks in the Gallatin, including more than 35 square miles near the Bridger ski area, worth at least another $50 million to $100 million."

Asked how he'd like to be remembered, Blixseth once quipped: "As a poor kid who was raised on welfare, who is still one of the little guys (at heart) – I can go into a cowboy bar with my T-shirt and boots on and be as accepted as the next guy."

According to a Club Yellowstone press release, "Blixseth's early years as a songwriter and producer instilled a respect for nature, and he is dedicated to keeping the environment within this area unspoiled."

Finally, last year the state of Montana cracked down on Blixseth for destroying wetlands, obliterating streams, ignoring stop orders and killing trout in the Gallatin River during construction of the Moose Meadows section of the Club Yellowstone resort. The timber mogul was fined a token $50,000.

Like Martha, Blixseth craves the media spotlight. Most recently, he made a big deal out of offering a $50,000 reward for anyone turning in the DC sniper. Of course, if he really wanted to take down some criminals there were several others within spitting distance. CP

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The Osama of Bhopal

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